

## LEPIDOPTERA RECORDED FROM THE ISLES OF SCILLY IN MAY 1986

By R. J. HECKFORD\*

In 1981 Agassiz published a list of the Lepidoptera of the Isles of Scilly. I do not know of any later published records. Between 24th and 31st May 1986 I stayed on St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly and during that time visited St. Martin's and St. Agnes. I found two species not included in Agassiz's list as well as several of which there are few records from the islands. I list these at the end of this paper. The comments in brackets are taken from Agassiz's list. My observations of two other species seem sufficiently interesting to warrant a fuller account.

*Oinophila v-flava* (Haworth) occurs in the open in the Isles of Scilly, although elsewhere in the British Isles it seems confined to cellars and warehouses where the larva has been found on the fungus *Rhacodium cellare* and on wine corks. The larva had never been found on the islands (Pelham-Clinton, 1985). On 24th and 25th May at Old Town Bay, St. Mary's I found several larvae which I could not identify under the bark of *Pittosporum crassifolium* Soland. Much to my surprise between 16th June and 3rd July these produced *v-flava*.

*P. crassifolium* is a native of New Zealand and has been widely planted on the islands as a windbreak. I found most of the larvae under bark which was paper thin and detached from the trunk. The bark could be easily peeled back to reveal the larvae which appeared to feed on both the bark and trunk amongst a few silken strands. Such detached bark occurred on apparently healthy trees in the area below where a branch joined the trunk. I also found a few larvae under much thicker bark which had cracked.

The larvae were comparatively long and thin and quite active when disturbed. They all had a light reddish-brown head with a paler prothoracic plate, but the bodies differed. Some were almost transparent and glass-like with the gut showing dark grey; others were opaque white with no sign of the gut. The pinacula were concolorous with the body.

On 26th May I watched a female *Celastrina argiolus* (Linnaeus) lay one egg on a bud of *Hebe lewisii* (Armstrong) in the grounds of Tregarthen's Hotel, St. Mary's. There were several females crawling over and examining other buds but I did not see any more eggs laid. I did not take the egg to confirm that the larva would eat either the flowers or leaves but in the circumstances it seems likely that this is a foodplant on the islands especially as it is frequently planted there.

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## List of selected species

## TISCHERIIDAE

*Tischeria marginea* (Haworth) Rocky Hill, St. Mary's, mine on *Rubus* 25.v. ("Tresco").

## TINEIDAE

*Infurcitinea argentimaculella* (Stainton) near Tregarthen's Hotel, St. Mary's, one larva in a tube on *Lepraria* 24.v.; near Toll's Porth, St. Mary's several larvae in tubes on *Lepraria* 25.v., adult bred 10.vii. ("Twice recorded on Tresco").

## GRACILLARIIDAE

*Calybites phasianipennella* (Hübner) St. Agnes, one larval cone on *Rumex acetosa* 28.v. ("Several cones recorded on Tresco").

## GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE

*Glyphipterix simpliciella* (Stephens) Porth Hellick, St. Mary's, several adults 25.v.; Telegraph Hill, St. Mary's common 26.v.; St. Agnes, common 28.v.; St. Martin's, several 29.v. ("Uncommon").

## COLEOPHORIDAE

*Coleophora coracipennella* (Hübner)/ *prunifoliae* Doets/*cerasivorella* Packard. Pelistry Bay, St. Mary's, one case on *Crataegus* 27.v. no moth bred. Most likely to be *cerasivorella*. Agassiz records only *coracipennella* with no twentieth century records.

*C. discordella* Zeller near Porth Cressa, St. Mary's, several cases on *Lotus corniculatus* 24.v.; near Toll's Porth, St. Mary's, a few cases on *L. corniculatus* 25.v.; St. Agnes, several cases on *L. uliginosus* 28.v.; St. Martin's, a few cases on *L. corniculatus* 29.v. ("Uncommon").

## GELECHIIDAE

*Chrysoesthia sexguttella* (Thunberg) Bar Point, St. Mary's, one adult 26.v. ("F. Jenkinson only, no twentieth century records").

*Mirificarma mulinella* (Zeller) Telegraph Hill, St. Mary's, larvae on *Sarothamnus* 26.v., adults bred 24.viii. and 6.ix.; St. Martin's larva in *Ulex* flower 29.v., adult bred 25.viii. Not previously recorded from the islands.

*Scrobipalpa samadensis* (Pfaff) subsp. *plantaginella* (Stainton) St. Agnes, a few larvae in roots of *Plantago coronopus* 28.v.; St. Martin's several larvae 29.v.; Porthcressa, St. Mary's several larvae 30.v. — I had found larvae on St. Mary's on 22.iii.1977 but had not published that record. ("One, September 1957").

*S. ocellatella* (Boyd) St. Agnes, two larvae mining *Beta maritima* 28.v.; St. Martin's several larvae 29.v. ("Not common").

*Caryocolum viscariaella* (Stainton) near Porthloo Beach, St. Mary's three larvae in spun terminal shoots of *Silene dioica* 25.v.; Telegraph Hill, St. Mary's, several larvae 26.v.; St. Martin's several larvae 29.v. There are no previous published records, but both D. J. Agassiz and E. C. Pelham-Clinton tell me they have found the species here previously.

## TORTRICIDAE

*Acleris rhombana* (Denis and Schiffermuller) Pelistry Bay, St. Mary's one larva on *Crataegu* 27.v., adult bred 10.ix. ("One, Tresco 19.ix. 74").

### Acknowledgement

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### References

- Agassiz, D. J. L., 1981. *A revised list of the Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) of the Isles of Scilly*, 20pp., 1 map. Isles of Scilly Museum Association [Publication No. 14].
- Pelham-Clinton, E. C., 1985. Hieroxestidae in Heath, J. & Emmet, A. M., *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 2: 240-243.

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TRISTALES EMORTUALIS (D. & S.) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN THE GARDEN. With an overnight temperature of 16°C. promised for the night of 6th July, 1987 the garden trap was put on for the first time this year. At around midnight I gave it a cursory look before turning in and, noting plenty of activity, decided to leave a real examination until the next morning. A moth on the outside of the container looked remarkably like something I had experienced years ago in the not far distant Chilterns but it was not looked at with much conviction. The specimen was still there on the outside next morning and was indeed a female *T. emortualis*. Whether this specimen was an immigrant only the substantive records of others running traps on that night will indicate. Either way, this Caversham specimen could well be a new county record for v.c.23 Oxfordshire; all records known to me over the past 25 years relate to v.c.24 Buckinghamshire and those old 1859 and 1910 records are too imprecise to be sure how far the good Revs. Burkes and Perry walked on their excursions around Stonor — the county boundary does funny things in those parts! B. R. BAKER, 25 Matlock Road, Caversham, Reading.